Amendments To Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims

1. (currently amended) A system for facilitating a change in distance between objects, said system including:

a head component ~~configured to attach to~~ having cutting threads, said head component inserted into, and terminating within, one of said objects;

a wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire ~~is configured to mate~~ mates with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration; and,

a cap ~~configured to mate~~ mating with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tip, cutting threads and fastening threads.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tool attachment ~~configured to mate~~ which mates with a tool head.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured to translate along said wire in only one direction.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap ~~is configured with~~ includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said object.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap ~~is configured with~~ includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said object surface.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

8. (original) The system of claim 1 further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a cannulated rod ~~configured to receive~~ which receives said wire, said tensioner further includes gears having a third interface component ~~configured to mate~~ which mates with said second interface component of said wire to apply tension to said wire.

10. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a gauge to determine the amount of tension.

11. (currently amended) A system for the fixation of a bone fracture having a first ~~surface~~ bone portion and a second bone portion ~~surface~~, said system including:

a head component ~~configured to attach into~~ having cutting threads, said head component inserted into, and terminating within, said first ~~surface of said~~ bone portion;

a flexible wire having a first end, ~~and~~ a second end and a middle wire portion, wherein said first end of said flexible wire ~~is configured to mate with~~ is affixed to said head component and said middle wire portion extends across an interface between said first bone portion and said second bone portion; and,

a cap ~~configured to mate~~ which mates with said second end of said flexible wire by translating along said flexible wire ~~over a surface which restricts~~ while restricting reverse translational movement to apply pressure between said first bone portion and said second bone portion.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said flexible wire ~~is configured to extend~~ extends through said second surface of said bone and said cap ~~is configured to mate~~ mates with said flexible wire against said second surface of said bone to exert tension on said flexible wire, thereby compressing said first and second surfaces of said bone against each other.

13. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein a surgical plate is ~~configured to mate~~ mates with said second surface of said bone.

14. (currently amended) A cap device having an outside surface and an inside surface,

said inside surface including an interface component and said outside surface including cutting threads, wherein said cap device ~~is configured to receive~~ receives a flexible wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said flexible wire is ~~configured to mate with~~ affixed to a head component, said flexible wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said flexible wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration, wherein said head component ~~is configured to attach to one of said objects~~ attaches to a first object, said cap device ~~configured to mate~~ mates with said second end of said flexible wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said flexible wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

15. (currently amended) The cap device of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat top surface to minimize said cap from protruding above the surface of ~~said~~ a second object after said cap is inserted into said second object.

16. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving a wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

17. (currently amended) A method for facilitating a change in distance between a first and second surface, said method including:

providing a head component ~~mated with~~ affixed to a flexible wire having a first interface component;

inserting said head component into, and terminating within, said first surface;

extending said flexible wire ~~through~~ into said second surface such that a middle portion of said flexible wire crosses an interface between said first and second surface; and,

translating a cap having a second interface component over said first interface component of said flexible wire such that said ~~first~~ second interface component restricts reverse translational movement and applies pressure between said first and second surface.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said inserting step includes mating a drill over a driver head of said head component to facilitate drilling said head component into said bone.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said head component includes cutting threads and mating threads such that said inserting step includes cutting new threads into said object using said cutting threads and mating said new threads with said mating threads.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein excess wire beyond said cap is removed.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including exerting pressure between said first and second surfaces by exerting tension on said flexible wire.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap ~~is~~ further ~~configured with~~ includes threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap ~~is configured with~~ includes a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

23. (withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening, and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said center hole to said additional opening for facilitating expansion of said cap.

24. (withdrawn) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said additional opening to said outside surface of said cap for facilitating expansion of said cap.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said wire is a flexible wire.

26. (withdrawn) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a spring to apply pressure to said cap.